

THE SANCTIFICATION OF MARRIAGE

Apostolic Christian Counseling And Family Services
877-370-9988 – www.accounseling.org



What is Sanctification?

Sanctify – to make holy

What does this look like in your life?



Outline

Viewing Marriage as a Sanctifying Tension

Common Areas of Tension

Tools to help Navigate these Areas

The Call of Scripture

Ephesians 5:22, 25
“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord...Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word...”

- Wives – what is the cost to you of submission to your husbands?
- Husbands – what is the cost to you of love for your wives?
- Our daily walk will present the Gospel to others.

Self-Reflection

Where do you and your spouse most often experience tension?

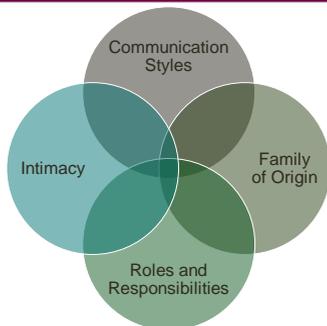
How do you normally handle it?

Sanctifying Tension

- Reframe your marriage as a key sanctifier in your life.
 - What has your marriage exposed about your character?
- Realize this tension is not a problem to be solved but something to be managed.
- Sanctification lasts our entire life.



Common Areas of Difference



Communication Styles

- We are designed to communicate differently:
 - Expander/Condenser
 - Thinker/Feeler
 - Pursuer/Distancer
- How do we lean into these differences instead of allowing them to create breakdowns?



Family of Origin

- Our Family of Origin has a deep influence on our life. It will help shape:
 - Our expectations of what marriage should look like.
 - How we process criticism.
 - How we expect to spend our holidays.
 - How we practice forgiveness.
- How do we “leave, cleave, and weave”?



Roles and Responsibilities

- We settle into roles and responsibilities as a couple.
- Often there can be underlying tension points:
 - Finances
 - Children
 - Career(s)
 - Housework
 - Other
- What does dialogue about these things look like?



Intimacy

- Desires and expectations for intimacy between spouses can vary.
 - Different seasons of life can affect this tension as well.
 - Communication in this area is critical.
- How able are you to have a conversation about this topic with your spouse?



Self-Reflection

- List three things you appreciate about your spouse?
- When do you find it easier to turn away from your spouse instead of turning toward them?



Resources Available

Couple Checkup – online test by makers of Prepare/Enrich

- Compares scores of spouses in seven key areas.
- Maps the couple's view of closeness/flexibility.
- Provides a view into the couple's SCOPE personality scores.
- The Couple Checkup book provides a testing discount.
- More in-depth analysis.

Focus on the Family "Focus on Marriage" assessment

- Compares areas of strength and growth opportunities as a couple.
- High level overview without much detail.
- Linked to a host of resources on Focus on the Family's website.
- Solid Christian bent.
- Free assessment